

• south carolina state museum
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SPRING

VOLUME XXXV NO.2



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ISSUE**

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Click on this symbol
for virtual content



FROM THE DIRECTOR

William Calloway, Executive Director

“Start each sunrise as a new day. Start out believing there’s good to be done and people to do it for.” - Modjeska Monteith Simkins

First, I want to say that I hope you and your loved ones are safe and healthy. We are all doing our best to maintain our health and navigate through this difficult time. It’s challenging, but we’re getting through it and in the spirit of Modjeska Simkins, we’ll ... “start each sunrise as a new day.”

As an organization rooted in community and serving as a gathering space to learn in a fun and safe environment - it’s up to us to create that same community and space – virtually. As we move through the next few weeks together, the State Museum team is working to provide fresh, exciting content online. From e-learning lessons and activities, to virtual visits to the museum and museum curated blogs, we will be here for you. Our museum staff are also still working (from home) and are available by email (and phone?) to answer your museum questions.

I imagine one of those questions might be related to our collection and what we’re doing to protect it during this time. State Museum collections and security staff are performing daily on-sight checks, in conjunction with their normal routines, to ensure the objects are maintained and protected for the public, including:

- Securing all galleries and storage areas
- Conducting daily walk-through of the museum spaces including galleries and storage areas

- Monitoring museum environments, including temperature, humidity, etc. for artifact preservation
- Maintaining an onsite security presence

While we continue to do onsite security checks, the museum has added a cloud-based monitoring system for the environment. This system along with the museum’s disaster plan and checklist allows for us to prepare for a time where we might be off-site and are still need to care for the collection.

We’ll continue to monitor the situation surrounding the COVID 19 pandemic and update you regularly on news related to re-opening the museum as well as any other updates. For more information on COVID 19, I invite you to visit the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control website. There you’ll find in depth information on the virus as well as tips to stay safe and healthy.

Until then, we hope that you’ll connect with us online, whether it’s for a mental break, a quick lesson for your little one, or just to check in on your favorite museum. Together, we’ll get through this difficult time and when we do – we will be here to welcome you through our doors again.

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MUSEUM GOES VIRTUAL

VISIT SCMUSEUM.ORG

While we are closed to the public our educators are still working to provide you with great new content so you can continue to experience the museum – from home!

Museum curators and educators have developed and will continue to develop new virtual programs, tours and online resources. This new content is free and members will be able to access some of it early, before the general public, via our member enews. Users will find a wealth of South Carolina focused information including:

- [Blogs](#) containing fascinating info developed by museum curators and educational staff on a variety of subjects, as well as instructional posts on fun educational activities.
- [Virtual gallery tours and walks with museum curators and staff](#)
- [Online lessons and experiments](#) with museum educators and our partners at SCETV.
- [Online Collections](#) courtesy of University of South Carolina Libraries Digital Collections including: The Robert B. Ariail Collection of Historical Astronomy and the Standard Federal Photograph Collection with over 140 historic photos of Columbia from the Museum's collection.

Be sure to follow our social media accounts (Facebook, Instagram and Twitter) for even more fun and educational posts.

Get Information About an Object Direct from Museum Curators!

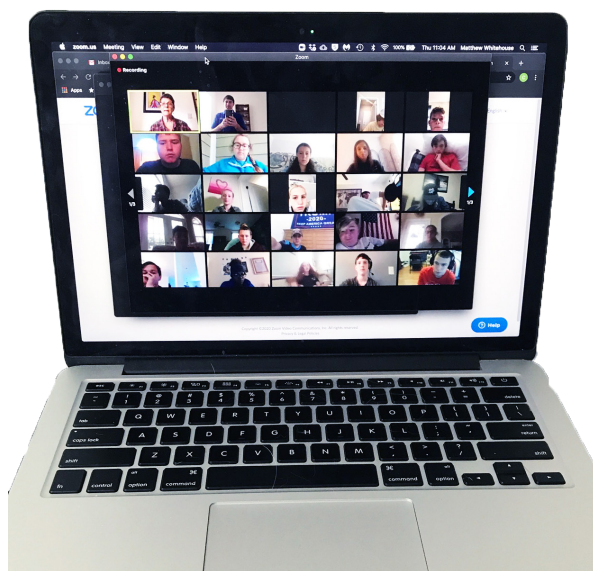
Do you have an object or piece of artwork that you purchased, inherited or even found in the attic? State Museum staff are available to help you identify objects and find research and conservation resources. If you have something that you would like to find out more about, head to the museum's website. There you'll find a special request form to fill out about your object.

All you have to provide is your contact information, a basic description of your object and/or artwork and any background information you may have about it. Museum staff will be in touch to assist you within 5 working days.



DISTANCE LEARNING CONTINUES FROM HOME!

South Carolina State Museum Observatory educators are still hard at work reaching students from across the State.



Pictured: Seventh and Eighth grade students from Coastal Montessori Charter School on Pawley's Island logged in from home to hear from observatory manager, Matthew Whitehouse.

(Continued on next page)



MUSEUM GOES VIRTUAL

VISIT SCMUSEUM.ORG

VIRTUAL AND E-LEARNING EXPERIENCE NOW AVAILABLE



HEAD TO THE MUSEUM'S WEBSITE TO
REGISTER OR EXPERIENCE THIS VIRTUAL
FUN!

FOLLOW US...



TO LEARN MORE: SCMUSEUM.ORG

scmuseum.org

360 Degree Virtual Tours

You can now experience 360 degree, interactive versions of current exhibits, [Apollo 50: Journey to the Moon](#), [Reconstruction](#) and more. Virtual visitors can use their mouse or trackpad to explore 360 degree gallery images and click on icons to reveal more information, images and extra video content. Visit scmuseum.org to learn more.



Virtual Programs

Lunch & Learns

Jump online with State Museum staff for a special virtual programs. Guests will learn about South Carolina pirates, crafty spies and more! Registration required and capacity is limited.

Telescope Livestream Saturdays - Virtual Night-Sky Observing

Join State Museum Boeing Observatory staff for a live look at the night sky – virtually! Each Saturday night, weather permitting, staff will livestream a telescope feed from their home in accordance with social distancing guidelines. Have a question or comment? Staff will monitor the stream and respond as needed. The livestream will be available via the museum's Facebook page.

S.T.E.A.M at Home: Weekly Webinars

From a dino playing with Liquid Nitrogen to Elephant Toothpaste our education team has come together to bring you some of their best experiments and activities. Get a step by step guide to making your own volcano or a Jacob's Ladder with some spare ribbon and glue from around the house.

E-LEARNING ACTIVITIES:

Curator Gallery Talks

History Highlight: American Made Telescopes at the State Museum

The Museum is home to the best publicly owned collection of American made telescopes in the United States. Museum director of education, Tom Falvey, gives a brief overview of the collection and shows of a few the instruments in the museum's telescope gallery.

Art Talk: Fascinating Favorites

Art is located on all four floors of the State Museum. In this video, director of collections, Paul Matheny, and curator of art, Amy Chalmers, discuss some of their favorite collection pieces.

For more interactive fun, you'll find a museum themed crossword puzzles and beautiful digital jigsaw puzzles made from photographed art in the museum's collection.

MORE FOR MEMBERS



EARLY ACCESS

We might be closed to the public, but we want to continue offering you a great member benefit! Each week we are giving members early access to our new digital content including links to early registration for our virtual programs. Make sure to check your inbox every Monday to enjoy this fun benefit. If you need to add or update your contact information please email us at membership@scmuseum.org.

We miss you Members!
We can't wait to see you again soon!

STAY SAFE AND HEALTHY!

QUESTIONS ABOUT MEMBERSHIP? Contact us at: membership@scmuseum.org or 803.898.4937

THANK YOU

For 31 years, the South Carolina State Museum has provided educational environments that entertain, inspire imagination and creativity, and enrich the lives of visitors. Within these walls, we tell hundreds of stories about our history and how our actions have the opportunity to determine our future.

There is no doubt this year will be a notable chapter in our history books. This is not only due to COVID-19, but because people are now realizing more than ever, the value of our community.

It has been our vision since 1988 to be a catalyst for the cultural and educational development of our state and we stand committed to that. As a way to lend a helping hand to families and educators within our community, we have developed e-learning resources that are accessible from home. These resources include webinars, online exhibits, gallery talk videos, and more!

The South Carolina State Museum is able to fulfill its mission and move forward with its vision thanks to generous donors like yourself. There is no doubt that there would be no us without you! Your support helps us preserve the stories of our great state, educate young minds, and enrich the lives of our visitors.

**SO THANK YOU from The South Carolina
State Museum Foundation**

AND PLEASE STAY SAFE!



UPCOMING EXHIBITION

THE GRAPHIC EYE

SOUTH CAROLINA & THE INTERSECTION of ART AND DESIGN



Marcelo Novo, *Everlast*, 1993. Linocut print.
©Marcelo Novo

While the museum has been closed, art curator, Amy Chalmers has still been hard at work (from home) planning to open the latest art exhibit, *The Graphic Eye*. This new exhibition will show guests the difference between art and design; when art is also design and more.

The Graphic Eye will not only address those questions but it will also showcase South Carolina art with a graphic sensibility, both “fine” and commercial. “In our current era, communication design is more ubiquitous than ever,” says Art Curator Amy Chalmers.

“We live in an unprecedented moment where we see hundreds if not thousands of images a day. We understand “graphic design” as a primarily digital, commercial concept. This exhibit seeks to give it more historical context.”

The scope of the exhibition spans the past century, and traces important changes in culture and technology. “My hope is that visitors will question the distinction between what we consider “art for art’s sake” and commercial art,” says Chalmers. “This exhibit looks at art that uses graphic conventions, as well as commercial work with strong artistic value.”

From mass-produced media of the late 19th century to concert posters of today, *The Graphic Eye* explores South Carolina’s strong and diverse connection to the scmuseum.org

graphic arts. Included in the show are Jasper Johns’ prints, Shepard Fairey’s political posters, commercial art and advertisements from the 1950s and 60s, and work by artists such as Sallie Frost Knerr, Anna Heyward Taylor, and Leo Twiggs. The thriving industry of contemporary graphic design will also be represented, with posters and other projects by prominent creatives currently working across the state.

Guests will also learn about different methods of printing and printmaking, typography, advertising in the last century, and post-WWII artists who blurred boundaries and challenged the definition of “fine art.” “I think this exhibit is going to be very exciting and educational for all ages,” said Chalmers. “Guests will learn how to better read images, to analyze how color, composition, and font can convey a message.”

#MuseumFromHome

So what are our curators doing during this time of social distancing? In fact, they have been very busy! Our curators are now working from home and thinking about ways to educate, engage, and entertain our guests virtually, via social media and online content. They’re also looking at ways to document the Coronavirus crisis here in South Carolina. Follow us on Instagram and Facebook for more information and to learn more about highlighted objects from our collection.

1888 Frederick Douglass Walking Stick

Image Credit: FEE | Tim Webster

The South Carolina State Museum recently acquired a walking stick belonging to abolitionist, Frederick Douglass. The stick was gifted to him while visiting Charleston, S.C. in March 1888. The Douglass Walking stick is one of a kind and will be added to the museum's expanding historical collection of artifacts.

"This walking stick is not only a notable object of national history, gifted to the preeminent abolitionist, writer, and lecturer Frederick Douglass, it is a significant and meaningful piece of South Carolina history," said JoAnn Zeise, cultural history curator of the State Museum.

In early 1888, Douglass embarked on a speaking tour of South Carolina and Georgia, a journey not without peril. In early March 1888, Douglass arrived in Charleston, South Carolina where he delivered versions of his "Self-Made Men" and "European Travels" addresses at Mount Zion church, founded in 1883 and considered a "daughter church" of Mother Emanuel AME, the oldest African Methodist Episcopal church.

He was honored afterward by an African American militia unit calling themselves the Douglass Light Infantry. Most of

the men in the militia company would have been formerly enslaved men and named themselves in honor of Douglass. According to a newspaper account, the infantry members serenaded him at their armory. They also presented him with a walking stick, with a gold cap engraved "Hon. F. Douglass / From D.L.I. / Charleston, S.C. / Mar. 6th / 1888" and is decorated with white strawberries which symbolized righteousness and spiritual merit.

Adding this one-of-a-kind piece to our collection will help us continue to tell the wonderful stories of South Carolina for years to come.

Frederick Douglass was the most famous African American abolitionist and orator of the 19th century. During the last decade of his life, he traveled frequently to give speeches across the country. The Douglass walking stick will be placed in the museum's newly added Reconstruction gallery on the fourth floor once the museum reopens.

[Click here to learn more about this acquisition.](#)





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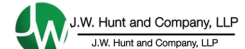
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